

# Connections

October 2009

## MoDOT Gets Great Report Card from Missourians

by Sally Oxenhandler

Report cards can cut both ways depending on how much effort you put into them. Sometimes they're not so good, and you want to hide them from the parents. Other times they're good enough to plaster on the refrigerator door.

MoDOT's most recent report card from Missourians is definitely a keeper and reflects the hard work and dedication of Team MoDOT. It shows that 85 percent of Missourians are satisfied with the job we're doing. Moreover, 24 percent, or almost a quarter of customers, are very satisfied with our work.

The customer satisfaction findings come from random telephone interviews with 3,500 adult Missouri residents that also provide information for four other Tracker measures: satisfaction with transportation options; public involvement; MoDOT as Missouri's transportation expert; and providing timely, accurate and understandable information.

Customer feedback in those areas was equally positive:

- 68 percent are satisfied with their transportation options; up 11 percent from last year;
- 72 percent agree that MoDOT considers their needs and views when making decisions;
- 91.5 percent think MoDOT is the primary transportation expert; and
- 92 percent of Missourians agree that MoDOT provides understandable information, while 90 percent believe the department provides timely and accurate information.

A new question posed this year underscores even further the positive direction we're headed. When asked if they trust MoDOT to keep its commitments to the public, 89 percent said yes!

The complete Report Card from Missourians can be found at <http://library.modot.mo.gov/RDT/reports/ri08018/or10001.pdf>.



Cathy Morrison



Shaun Schmitz



Cathy Morrison

### Welcome Commissioner Miller!



Shaun Schmitz

Stephen R. Miller of Kansas City was sworn in as Missouri's newest Highways and Transportation Commissioner Aug. 25 by Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice William Ray Price, Jr.

### Big Bags for Fighting Floods

by Sandra Hentges

MoDOT has a new tool for holding back floodwater. Big Bags are large sand bags that unfold like an accordion to create a 15-foot long by 3-foot high by 3-foot wide storage compartment for sand. One system of Big Bags takes the place of 500 sand bags.

"They'll be used the next time floodwaters threaten to rise over our major roads," said Jim Carney, state maintenance engineer. "A new product like this can help us save time and protect lives during a crisis."

The Big Bags work much like LEGO® toys; a chain of dumpster-sized bags can be stacked, attached, filled with sand and built upon to create massive floodwalls quickly and easily. The bags are



Cathy Morrison

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#### Customer Praise

D9 receives a unique thank-you note



# Design-Build Phase of Safe & Sound Program Begins

by Bob Brendel

As we move into fall, the number of completed Safe & Sound bridge projects is approaching 100. Since the first project was completed in late April, MoDOT and its contractor partners have been reopening a new bridge every day-and-a-half.

All of the bridges improved so far have been rehabilitation projects, contracted through MoDOT’s normal monthly lettings. Now, the next phase of the project is about to begin.

During October KTU Constructors, the Design-Build team selected in May for Safe & Sound’s 554 bridge replacements, will begin its first four projects in Districts 1, 4, 5 and 6:

- Buchanan County, Route KK over Puckett Slough
- Platte County, Route 45 over Bear Creek
- Maries County, Route 42 over Mills Spring
- St. Louis County, Route 109 over Bonhomme Creek

Meanwhile, KTU will continue preparing for its first big construction push in early 2010, completing designs, finalizing agreements with subcontractors and materials suppliers and fine-tuning its construction schedules. More than 50 people are working at KTU’s hub office in Kansas City. As construction volumes warrant in the future, they plan to open up to five regional offices.



Before



After

The photos above show a Safe & Sound bridge on Route 2 in Cass County.

## Missouri High School Students Challenged to Buckle Up!

### Safety Belt Campaign Aims to Save Lives

by Kara Price

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is calling all Missouri high school students to compete in the 2009 Battle of the Belt Challenge. The challenge is an opportunity for students to win cash and prizes for their school while educating their peers about the importance of seat belts.

The statewide competition runs Oct. 5 – Nov. 20 to educate young drivers about safety belt use, reduce traffic crash injuries and save lives.

“In 2008, seven out of 10 young people (between the ages of 15-20) killed in Missouri vehicle crashes were not buckled up,” said Leanna Depue, chair of the coalition’s executive committee. “Through education, competition and fun, the Battle of the Belt Challenge can make a difference with Missouri teens and save lives.”

Young drivers are overrepresented in crashes both nationwide and in Missouri. Although comprising only nine percent of Missouri’s licensed drivers, in 2008 they were involved in 23 percent of the fatal and disabling injury crashes.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people 15-20 years old.

Results of a 2008 survey among Missouri teens indicate 38 percent of teens are not wearing safety belts.



This year’s program features a new online system at [www.saveMOyouth.com](http://www.saveMOyouth.com) where schools can sign up, submit forms and access resources. Additional award categories give more schools the opportunity to be a Battle of the Belt winner.

The program consists of two surprise seat belt checks at each high school to measure student seat belt usage before and after an educational campaign regarding the importance of seat belts. In addition, schools have the opportunity to submit a 30-second video spot aimed at encouraging their peers to buckle up. Statewide and regional prizes are awarded to schools reaching high safety belt usage rates.

More than 125 schools participated in Battle of the Belt last year. For more information on Battle of the Belt, visit [www.saveMOyouth.com](http://www.saveMOyouth.com).

## Missouri Is Bike Friendly

by Sally Oxenhandler

Because the weather has been so unusually nice this summer, my family and I have taken advantage of biking



Other bike-bragging project achievements include:

- The project to rebuild Interstate 64 now under way in St. Louis called for two new bicycle/pedestrian underpasses, which are now com-

plete. A multi-use path at Hampton and I-64 that used to cross over a heavily traveled road now passes underneath to protect bicyclists and pedestrians from traffic. In addition, a new, more open bypass just west of Kingshighway lets bikers and pedestrians cross safely under the interstate.

That’s why it’s good to know MoDOT works hard to factor bicycle and pedestrian travel into its highway projects, and has made a lot of headway making state roads and bridges user-friendly for bicyclists and pedestrians. In fact, the League of American Bicyclists recently ranked Missouri as the 17th most bike friendly state in the nation, an 11-spot jump from last year.

The ranking is based on Missouri’s commitment to bicycling and covers six key areas: legislation, policies and programs, infrastructure, education and encouragement, evaluation and planning, and enforcement.

“MoDOT strives to factor bicycle travel into its highway projects,” said Melissa Anderson, MoDOT’s non-motorized engineer whose focus is on bicycle and pedestrian travel. “We’ve had some great success, and we continually look for ways to make our roads and bridges user-friendly for bicyclists and pedestrians.”

Anderson cited the planned rehabilitation of the Heart of America Bridge, which connects downtown Kansas City with north Kansas City via Route 9, as a good example of MoDOT’s bike friendly approach. Under the project, the bridge will be reconfigured to provide a barrier-protected path for bicycles and pedestrians. Signs remind-

ing bicyclists and motorists to share the road will also be installed.

Working with the city of St. James, MoDOT built a 5.2-mile hiking and biking trail through divided Historic Route 66 and an old growth pine forest area. The completed trail is part of an overall plan to connect trails from St. James to Meramec State Park.

An asphalt bicycle/pedestrian trail was built this summer in Riverview Park in Hannibal with federal enhancement funds. It connects Riverview Park visitors to downtown Hannibal.

## Fighting Floods

continued from page 1

made of tightly woven polypropylene with wooden frames that are screwed together. Each system weighs only 50 pounds when empty, but when deployed they are filled with 2,800-3,500 pounds of sand, depending on the moisture content.

It takes just a few minutes to fill the bags with the help of a spreader box on dump trucks. Creating a traditional sand bag wall could take several hours.

“The flood of 2008 prompted us to pursue the Big Bags,” said Carney. “We want to have something new to try in our next flood emergency.”

MoDOT was the first state in the area to purchase the Big Bags, and currently has 885 systems in storage at the Central Office Distribution Center available to the districts when they are needed.



# Show Us Your Seat Belt Dance – Round 2

by Sandra Hentges

Teens have a second chance to show off their dance moves!

The second round of a teen seat belt dance video competition started Oct. 1 and will again feature the original song “Get Your Buckle On.” The video contest is part of the October campaign sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, encouraging teens to “get your buckle on.”

More than 250 seat belt videos were posted online in the first round of the video competition, which ended Aug. 31. Many of the videos were filmed at the Highway Gardens Transporta-

tionExposition Center during this year’s Missouri State Fair.

“Infusing the buckle up message with music makes it memorable,” said Leanna Depue, MoDOT’s director of Highway Safety, and chair of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. “We hope young people will remember it and wear their seat belts on every trip.”

Forgetting to buckle up is one of the primary reasons teens cite for failing to wear their seat belts. One hundred thirty seven young people, age 16-20, were killed in 2008 traffic crashes.

Eighty percent were not buckled up.

The winner of the first-round contest has been announced. They have the opportunity to be featured in a professionally filmed public service announcement airing Oct. 18-25 during National Teen Driver Safety Week.



Please visit [www.getyourbuckleon.com](http://www.getyourbuckleon.com) to find out more or to upload your dance.

## Transportation MOre Fun Than Ever at the Missouri State Fair

by Reeve White

State Fair visitors had “MOre Fun Than Ever” this year at the Missouri State Fair as they danced through the Highway Gardens Transportation Exposition Center Aug. 13-23 in Sedalia.



Fairgoers celebrated keeping Missouri’s roadways clean at No MOre Trash! Day on Aug. 14.

The center featured several new displays as well as several returning favorites. Visitors were informed on the new texting law, Saved by the Belt, Adopt-a-Highway and No MOre Trash programs, work zone safety and multimodal highlights.

No MOre Trash! Day on Aug. 14 featured a celebration of keeping Missouri’s roadways clean. Fairgoers enjoyed free cookies, painting trash cans, a visit from Buttons the



The new 2010-2012 Missouri state map was a popular item at the fair.

Clown and a variety of other activities to spread the word about No MOre Trash!

The Get Your Buckle On room was a popular spot as visitors recorded their own seat belt dance for [www.getyourbuckleon.com](http://www.getyourbuckleon.com). Visitors also picked up

the hot-off-the-press Missouri state map. New this year at each grandstand concert was a MoDOT video on the big screens.

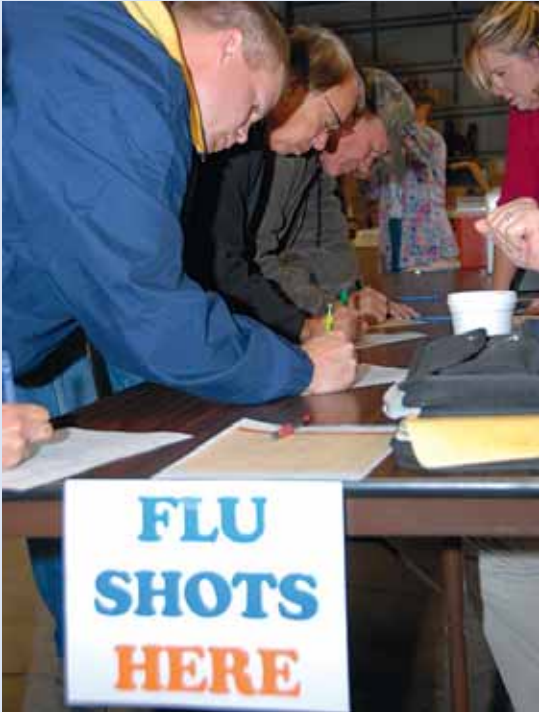
“The State Fair is a fun venue where we can talk to Missouri residents about the transportation issues facing them,” said Don Hillis, director of System Management.

“Thanks to all the Central Office and district volunteers who helped make this year’s fair a success.”

For more information on the Missouri State Fair, visit [www.mostatefair.com](http://www.mostatefair.com).

## Good News!

MoDOT will offer free flu shots for active employees. Look for locations and details in your district or division.



## Life Cycle of a Highway

Why do highways need to be rebuilt?

A new video from the Multimedia Services unit answers that question with animation, walking the viewer through the wear and tear that highways experience over 50 years of use, and how supporting rock and soil layers crumble despite repeated improvements to the surface. It explains what lies beneath your commute, and why highways eventually need more than a facelift.

The team’s work has caught the attention of other state transportation agencies working to communicate the need to reinvest in highways. It has even been requested by a London company as a tool to train government road agencies in developing countries on infrastructure maintenance.

Watch “The Life Cycle of a Highway” at <http://www.modot.mo.gov/newsand-info/lifecycle.htm> or [www.YouTube.com/modotvideo](http://www.YouTube.com/modotvideo).





# For Your Benefit

by Kristi Jamison

Access to good healthcare is one of the prized benefits we have as MoDOT employees. October is a time to evaluate your benefit plan to determine whether you need to make any changes.

This year, the Medical and Life Insurance Board of Trustees has opened enrollment for healthcare benefits of active employees through the end of October.

If you are an active employee already enrolled and don't need to make any

changes to your benefit plan, then you don't have to do anything.

If you, your spouse and/or eligible dependent children are not currently enrolled, you may apply during the open enrollment period from Oct. 1-30, 2009. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements as stated in the Summary Plan Document conveniently located on the intranet at <http://wwwi.intranet/eb/>. Coverage for new enrollees is effective Jan. 1, 2010. This open enrollment period does not include retirees, survi-

vors, vested members, work-related or long-term disability recipients, COBRA members, or their dependents.

Active employees wanting to enroll themselves, their spouse and/or eligible dependent children must:

- complete an A-570 Enrollment/Change form, available at the Employee Benefits' Web site at [www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfo/benefits.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfo/benefits.htm) under "Forms," or by contacting your respective insurance representative;
- provide a social security number for all applicants;
- provide a copy of one of the following lawful presence documents for each applicant: U.S. birth certificate,

U.S. passport, U.S. passport card, certificate of citizenship, certificate of birth abroad, certificate of naturalization, or valid lawful permanent resident card.

Enrollment forms must be received no later than Oct. 30, 2009, in the Employee Benefits' office, 1913 William Street, P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO, 65102.

Enrollment is also open for active MoDOT employees for the dental and vision benefit plans through the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan. For more information, go to [http://www.mchcp.org/State%20Members/state\\_2010OE.asp](http://www.mchcp.org/State%20Members/state_2010OE.asp).

## Beautiful Day, Great Cause

### Golf Tournament raises more than \$18,000 for Employee Benevolent Fund

It was more than just a beautiful day at the golf course. Whether the golfers were skilled or just learning the game, the annual Benevolent Fund 10-33 Golf Tournament at Columbia Country Club on Aug. 24 was a day to help families of fellow employees.

The tournament has strong support, and this year was no exception. Fifty-two teams of four participated, including employees and many industry partners. By the end of the day, more than \$18,000 was raised for families of employees killed in the line of duty.

The 10-33 Benevolent Fund makes a donation to each family at the time of their loss.

"It gives families a little breathing room while they are learning to deal with their loss," said System Management Director Don Hillis.

Tournament winners for this year are:

#### Championship Flight

1st place - Carl Sandbothe, Andy Fritz, Will Fritz, Larry Fritz (58)  
2nd place - Buddy Desai, Jay Moore, Kevin Keith, Bob Brendel (59)

#### A Flight

1st place - Troy Pinkerton, Missy Wilbers, Mike Teel, Jennifer Prenger (64)  
2nd place - Dan Fischer, David Fischer, Brett Dillon (64)

#### B Flight

1st place - Ken Liescheidt, Todd LaTorella, Don Hillis, Dave Nichols (67)  
2nd place - Mike Paden, Kevin Nechs, Roman Kulich, Ryan Voisey (67)

#### C Flight

1st place - Jeff Hardy, Dave Silvester, Tawn Nugent, Tim Ross (71)  
2nd place - Tommy Nunn, Brad Rumpf, Mike Bock, Mike Myers (72)

#### Closest to the pin (men) #6

John Watkins

#### Closet to the pin (women) #17

Missy Wilbers

#### Longest drive (men) #1

Andy Fritz

#### Longest drive (women) #1

Alberta Green

#### Silent Auction Results

4 Royals Tickets and parking pass - Tim Ross  
4 Rams Tickets - Greg Budd  
2 Cardinals Tickets - Llans Taylor  
4 Chiefs Tickets - Vicki Woods  
Mizzou towel and dozen Pro V1 - Kevin Keith  
Garmin w/ Dash Mount - Carl Sandbothe  
Golf Lamp - Mike Zimmerman



Please help your fellow employees today!

Visit [wwwi.intranet/shareleave](http://wwwi.intranet/shareleave)

### October Service Anniversaries

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|                        |     |  |  |                         |     |
|------------------------|-----|--|--|-------------------------|-----|
| <b>40 Years</b>        |     |  |  | Christopher D. Belt     | D10 |
| Paul A. Swendrowski    | D8  |  |  | Harry F. Gilmore        | CO  |
| Barbara E. Hague       | CO  |  |  | Charlene M. Holdt       | CO  |
| <b>30 Years</b>        |     |  |  | <b>15 Years</b>         |     |
| Randall R. George      | D4  |  |  | Kenton D. Bohon         | D2  |
| Frank R. Baker         | D9  |  |  | Timothy M. Barnes       | D3  |
| <b>25 Years</b>        |     |  |  | William J. Mallett      | D3  |
| Andrew J. Smith        | D1  |  |  | Matthew A. Willing      | D3  |
| Joseph W. Ostermann    | D2  |  |  | Lonny P. Roberts        | D3  |
| Robert J. Wray         | D4  |  |  | Linley J. Lipper        | D3  |
| Thomas M. Singleton    | D4  |  |  | Vickie E. Ginder        | D7  |
| James D. Miller        | D5  |  |  | Julie A. Haden-Stiles   | D8  |
| William F. Stewart     | D5  |  |  | Tamara S. Gregory       | D9  |
| Clinton R. Timmerman   | D6  |  |  | Barbara A. Barnard      | CO  |
| David A. Yawitz        | D6  |  |  | Allan J. Pollreis       | CO  |
| Richard M. Hencinski   | D6  |  |  | Michael S. Smith        | CO  |
| Richard J. Herminghaus | D6  |  |  | <b>10 Years</b>         |     |
| Judith A. Shrum        | D7  |  |  | David J. Earls          | D1  |
| Gary M. Klass          | D7  |  |  | Philip E. Giffin        | D1  |
| Doug W. West           | D7  |  |  | James C. Wallick        | D2  |
| Angela S. Bonnot       | CO  |  |  | Roger D. Curl           | D2  |
| Darryl E. Grothoff     | CO  |  |  | Patricia A. McDonald    | D4  |
| Margie A. Mansager     | CO  |  |  | Delmar S. Cowherd       | D4  |
| Pamella L. Schmutzler  | CO  |  |  | Thomas E. Rath          | D5  |
| <b>20 Years</b>        |     |  |  | Wayne J. Goyea          | D6  |
| Mark L. Corbin         | D2  |  |  | Edith M. Richardson     | D6  |
| Kim R. Reid            | D6  |  |  | Michael P. Colombo      | D6  |
| Michael J. Barton      | D9  |  |  | Trisha M. Claxton       | D6  |
| Deborah S. Austin      | D10 |  |  | Tommy E. Atkins         | D6  |
| William W. Lacey       | D10 |  |  | John G. Pilcher         | D7  |
|                        |     |  |  | Bartholomew C. Novinger | D7  |

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Jan A. Rowland       | D7  |
| Randy J. Vest        | D8  |
| William L. Long      | D8  |
| Douglas K. Sandgren  | D8  |
| Brent L. Campbell    | D9  |
| Matt D. Willbanks    | D9  |
| James R. Allison     | CO  |
| Richard L. Jones     | CO  |
| Julie R. Lamberson   | CO  |
| William J. Lockwood  | CO  |
| Robert H. Mahlan     | CO  |
| Kelly R. Niekamp     | CO  |
| Timothy S. Peck      | CO  |
| <b>5 Years</b>       |     |
| Patrick K. Kelly     | D1  |
| John D. Adams        | D2  |
| Trent E. Chaplin     | D3  |
| Steve R. Windle      | D4  |
| Jeffrey L. Bathgate  | D4  |
| Jeffrey T. Still     | D4  |
| Stella E. Heldstab   | D4  |
| Christopher A. Kelly | D6  |
| Le Roy G. Brand      | D6  |
| Chad D. Engemann     | D6  |
| Joseph L. Boyer      | D6  |
| Sandra J. Taurone    | D10 |
| Lori L. Greer        | CO  |
| Janet K. Graham      | CO  |
| Lisa A. Hueste       | CO  |
| Gennadiy V. Ivanov   | CO  |
| Laura K. Voss        | CO  |
| Patrick T. Wolf      | CO  |

### August Retirements

| Name            | Location | Years of Service |
|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| Ronald McAfee   | D1       | 20               |
| Michael Church  | D4       | 8                |
| Jim Pruessner   | D6       | 31               |
| Daryl Simmons   | D6       | 27               |
| Jack Myers      | D7       | 23               |
| Thomas Bentley  | D8       | 32               |
| Michael Garrard | CO       | 27               |
| Gary McQuitty   | CO       | 15               |
| Sharon Dashtaki | CO       | 32               |

### In Memoriam

|                            |    |           |
|----------------------------|----|-----------|
| <b>Active</b>              |    |           |
| Gary J. Baker              | D3 | August 12 |
| <b>Retirees</b>            |    |           |
| Flavel "F.C." or "Pee Wee" |    |           |
| C. Baxter                  | D7 | August 8  |
| Alfred A. Hammons          | D8 | August 8  |
| Melba Battles              | D5 | August 15 |
| Dennis L. McNealy          | D8 | August 19 |
| Charles "Chuck" M. Stock   | D7 | August 22 |
| James L. Long              | D7 | August 23 |
| Norval L. Howard           | D6 | August 28 |





# Missouri Freight – Back to the Water

Dr. Ernie Perry, administrator of freight development, and the team in Multimodal Operations is working to return freight transportation to the majestic Missouri river.

A single barge can carry 16 rail cars worth of freight, or enough to fill 70 tractor-trailers. One tow consisting of 15 barges and a towboat carries the load of more than 1,000 trucks. Moving freight via rivers is also an environmentally friendly way to move large amounts of goods. A tow can move one

ton of freight nearly 600 miles on one gallon of fuel, compared to 413 miles for rail and 155 miles for trucks.

“It all adds up to efficiency and an environmentally friendly way to transport commodities and materials that make the products people use every day,” said Perry.

However, the Missouri river has had a bit of a hiatus from freight travel. This year was the first season for a full season of navigation in the last nine years. Unstable water levels over the last eight



MoDOT employees visited the American Commercial Lines facility on the Ohio River in Indiana to talk about returning tow operations to the Missouri river. Pictured above (l-r) is Brad Hall and Mario Munoz with ACL, Jay Moore, Brian Weiler, Sherrie Turley, Janice Luchan with ACL and Dr. Ernie Perry.



A completed barge is ready for launch into the Ohio River. American Commercial Lines, a barge company, completes and launches approximately one barge per day.

years mean freight carriers have found other ways to move their goods – such as roads and railways.

In an effort to get cargo back on the water, Perry is working with agriculture producers, shippers, barge lines, other state and federal agencies and developers to craft the best plan. An important component of this effort is the work with private industry. Perry and others have visited two of the three biggest barge lines in the U.S. to get input on returning traffic to the Missouri. American Commercial Lines in Jeffersonville, Indiana and American Electric Power – River Operations, located in St Louis, have both hosted visits by MoDOT and have shared freely of their experiences and perspectives on freight operations on the Missouri.

Based on input from the private sector as well as other agencies, the team created the Missouri River Development Plan and has garnered support from Missouri’s congressional delegation. If the team’s nearly one million dollar proposal is approved, the money will be used to complete a market and

commodity analysis of traditional river products, examine potential for containerized shipping on the river, and develop an approach to more consistent operations even if water levels are low.

While the waterways are not right for every commodity, they can provide significant relief for crowded roads and rail lines. Perry points out that commerce on the Missouri river will spur additional economic and community growth along the river’s corridor, and help ensure that Missouri remains attractive to business and development.

“All of our freight modes are important to the total transportation system and bringing these goods back to the river provides a balance to our system and will benefit all Missourians,” said Perry.

For more information regarding freight or the Missouri River Development Plan, contact Dr. Perry at 573-526-5578.

# Distinguished Service in State Aviation

by Sue Cox

Cindy Kever is the 2009 recipient of the National Association of State Aviation Officials’ Distinguished Service Award. Kever is the first Missourian to receive this annual award, which recognizes individuals who have excelled in their service and dedication to aviation progress and development in their state.

“Cindy has a tremendous work ethic and continues to challenge herself in new areas every day,” said Joe Pestka, MoDOT’s aviation administrator. “She takes on increased responsibilities and

plays a vital role in the day-to-day operation of the aviation section. She also has a very good working relationship with our aviation partners and is committed to providing quality customer service.”

Some of Kever’s achievements and contributions include working on a new Web-based software database that helps aviation partners manage their capital improvement programs, airport layout plan certifications and coordination of grant administration programs.

Kever, a 30-year MoDOT employee, is a senior administrative technician in the Aviation unit of the Multimodal Operations Division in Central Office.



Cathy Morrison

## for more info

Connections Editor  
Phone  
E-mail  
  
105 W. Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Laura Holloway  
573.751.5985  
laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov

# Change Is Coming

5

Heads up! There will be changes in how and where you check out pool cars soon.

Look for more details in future e-mails and stories in the “Inside Minute” and Connections.





D1

Northwest

# Last Month in the Northwest District

by M. Elaine Justus



Marcia Johnson

Northwest District employees (and friends) helped raise funds for the District’s Employee Fund on Aug. 22.

The last month has definitely been a time in the Northwest District to focus on the needs of our fellow employees. On Aug. 22, 45 co-workers, family and friends joined together for a poker run and barbecue to raise money for the District Employee Fund.



Marcia Johnson

Cameron Maintenance Superintendent Barry Arthur and his friend Laurie Wright were there.

Altogether, 14 motorcycles, three bicycles and 25 riders competed. The high poker hand winners received donated prizes and the satisfaction of knowing they raised \$515.22 for a good cause.

Raising money for the Fallen Workers’ Memorial was the idea behind the “Pie-in-the Eye” fundraiser.



Shelly Aebersold

Human Resources Manager Kendra Ezzell took one for the team at the “Pie-in-the-Eye” fundraiser.



Amber Dydeil

District Engineer Don Wichern was selected as a target. The person throwing the pie was Area Engineer Tonya Lohman, later a target herself.



Roger Wittler

Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughey selected butterscotch as his pie flavor, a decision he was later heard to regret.



Shelly Aebersold

The most money was donated for an opportunity to put a pie in the face of Support Services Manager Norma Wood. Wood tried to dodge the pie, but was no match for her assailant.

The effort raised \$371.00 for the Fallen Workers’ Memorial Fund. It was part of each of three cookout luncheons held to celebrate the large percentage of employees who completed CPR training in the Northwest District.

It’s fair to say it was well-received (at least by the people throwing the pies – not the ones on the receiving end).

Candidates to receive a pie-in-the-eye were chosen by the highest donation and they ranked as follows:

- |      |                                               |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1st  | Support Services Manager<br>Norma Wood        |
| 2nd  | Operations Engineer<br>Koelle Barbour         |
| 3rd  | Area Engineer<br>Tonya Lohman                 |
| 4th  | Human Resources Manager<br>Kendra Ezzell      |
| 5th  | Resident Engineer<br>Larry Jacobson           |
| 6th  | District Engineer<br>Don Wichern              |
| 7th  | Assistant District<br>Engineer Tony McGaughey |
| 8th  | Information Systems<br>Manager Dan Rosenbohm  |
| 9th  | Maintenance Superintendent<br>Barry Arthur    |
| 10th | Area Engineer<br>Marty Liles                  |

## The Business of MoDOT

by M. Elaine Justus

Work goes on even while fundraisers are happening. On Sept. 8, MoDOT and the city of Maryville in Nodaway County celebrated an improvement to help keep bicyclists safe on Route 136. And in Buchanan County, progress continues on the brand new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge across the Missouri River at Atchison, Kan.



M. Elaine Justus

Area Engineer Marty Liles helped to cut the ribbon Sept 8.



Jon Morrow

On the Missouri side of the river, several of the piers for the new bridge are close to completion, and this photograph shows that work has also begun on construction of the cofferdam necessary to build the first of several piers that will be in the water. A cofferdam is “an enclosure in a water environment constructed to allow water to be displaced by air for the purpose of creating a dry work environment.”

### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail

Elaine Justus  
816.387.2353  
margaret.justus@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway  
St. Joseph, MO 64502



# D2

## North Central

### Chillicothe Clenches Team Spirit Award

by Tammy Wallace

The Tour of Missouri hit the district's very own city of Chillicothe on Sept. 12. Race enthusiasts lined the streets to get autographs and watch their favorite

athletes take the ceremonial laps to begin the sixth stage of the race heading to St. Joseph.



A smooth Route 190 gave cyclists a great ride out of town.



The Arrive Alive booth was a popular place during the Tour.

The city did an outstanding job planning this first-time event for their community, and even won the coveted Tour of Missouri 2009 Spirit Award.

MoDOT staff attended meetings and worked with the city volunteers to make sure everything was ready on race day.

One big accomplishment for the district was a resurfacing project that was completed just before the race.

Route 190, being used by the cyclists to head out of town, was scheduled to receive 12 miles of new surface this year

thanks to ARRA funding. Initially, it looked like the contractor would not be able to begin and complete the project prior to the race, but everything fell into place and on race day the cyclists traveled on the brand new surface.

A popular location was the Arrive Alive tent. Bicycle safety was the theme of items given to Tour of Missouri enthusiasts, including a raffle for 10 new helmets.

Congratulations to Chillicothe and to all of the Tour athletes.

### A Year of Success

by Scott Stephens

The district was very fortunate last year when the first regional bridge crew was created and based out of the district.

Three supervisors from Central Office with 93 combined years of bridge maintenance experience were chosen to lead the way, while six new employees with a variety of experience rounded out the team.

Here are just some of the major successes from this first year.

- Thirty-two bridges in Districts 2 and 3 have been repaired. These bridges were considered critical in nature. The type of repairs included pile replacement, replacement of entire abutment with new piling and back wall, expansion joint repair, bearing replacement, replaced entire cap and piling, bracing replacement, and painting/sealing of surfaces exposed to salt.
- Additional specialized equipment has been utilized in the district to support other district work. Primarily the boom



truck has helped move the district temporary bridge, unload concrete poles, and lift large tanks at various locations around the district. Traditionally a crane would have been rented to perform this work.

- Through training, five of the six crew members are now certified to weld in the vertical position. Also, two individuals attended painting school to be trained in proper surface preparation and application of paint.
- One of the greatest achievements through the reorganization is that

project managers now work directly with district bridge maintenance in determining whether the life of a bridge can be extended by repair or if the bridge needs to be replaced. Now, district personnel evaluate a bridge to see if repairs can be made to the superstructure or substructure. The repairs may improve the ratings so the bridges would no longer be listed as deficient. This decision-making process now lies solely with the district, rather than with Central Office.

Congratulations on a successful year.



Senior Human Resources Specialist David Williams discussed diversity in the workplace during the quarterly supervisor's meeting. Equal Opportunity and Diversity Director Rudy Nickens also attended. Organizational Results Director Mara Campbell visited with the supervisors on the recent customer satisfaction results.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager Tammy Wallace  
660.385.8209  
tammy.wallace@modot.mo.gov  
E-mail  
Route 63  
P.O. Box 8  
Macon, MO 63552



The district joined APAC – Missouri, Inc. and the Saline County Commission to celebrate a new safety enhancement on Route 65 at the APAC Quarry entrance in Marshall. The improvements are the result of all three entities working together to fund, design and construct the enhancement. A northbound acceleration lane and a southbound right-turn lane were added to Route 65 at the quarry entrance to provide added safety for trucks entering and exiting the quarry, and for motorists traveling along Route 65.



# D3

## Northeast

### Zippin’ Right Along

Betty Crocker would be proud of MoDOT for their creative “recipes” to improve highways. The recipe, titled “Full Depth Reclamation,” may not sound yummy, but it’s an innovative approach to recycling existing pavement. The process, first demonstrated in the Northeast District, uses a unique piece of equipment called the asphalt zipper. “If you think of the zipper as a mixer, the millings, cement, and water as the ingredients, you can make a fairly decent road,” said Jason Schafer, maintenance and traffic engineer.

before we milled it, we put the cement over the top, milled it, added water, then bladed,” he continued. The results? “We needed to be at eight percent water content to be successful, and in the areas tested, the one that was closest to eight percent had the best compaction,” Schafer explained. “As equipped, it was difficult to determine the application rate for both water and cement, but both are critical to the compaction of the base; if we were to do this more, we would definitely see improvement in the process,” he added.



Mike Ryan, Hannibal maintenance, Jennifer Hinson, north area engineer, Frankford Maintenance Supervisor Roy Niemeyer, and the vendor examine the outer road after the zipper has gone through. (Inset) The zipper, in action, has a 4-foot milling head and had to make five passes to cover the 20-foot road. The mill gauge can be set for 1/2 inch to 10 inches in depth.

The zipper is an attachment that hooks to a loader. “This allows a piece of equipment, like a loader, to be more of a multi-use piece of equipment, as opposed to a milling machine that only can do one thing,” Schafer explained.

#### A Variation in the Recipe

The demonstration involved two test sections 300 feet each. Working with maintenance crews, 6-9 inches of asphalt and base were milled off each section. “On the first 300 feet, after milling, we distributed cement over the top, then water and remixed it with the zipper,” Schafer explained. The second 300 feet,

“We plan to let it set for about a year to determine the results, unless it starts to deteriorate, then we’ll have to do something,” Schafer said. Since this is a base treatment only, a surface treatment will likely need to be added. The American Concrete Producers Association, through MoDOT’s Organizational Results division, requested a demonstration for the full-depth reclamation. Continental Cement donated 25 tons of cement, and several districts, including Central Office personnel, came to witness the demonstration. More testing is taking place in the Southwest District. The costs of the zipper and its trailer is about \$115,000.



MoDOT’s Northeast District posts online the WOW’s! we get everyday from our customers. Go to <http://wwwwi/intranet/d3/MoDOTWOW.htm> to read the compliments.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager Marisa Brown  
Phone 573.248.2502  
E-mail [marisa.brown@modot.mo.gov](mailto:marisa.brown@modot.mo.gov)  
  
Route 61 South  
P.O. Box 1067  
Hannibal, MO 63401

### Students Say “Ouch!” to New Texting Law

Kids are used to being told what to do. So it really wasn’t a surprise to area high school students when Missouri law-makers passed a new texting law. They weren’t even offended that drivers age 21 and under were targeted. “We know it’s unsafe, but like other things, we have to be reminded,” said several Hannibal High School students who participated in a recent press conference about the new law.

Being “reminded” could mean up to \$200 and point assessment on a driver’s license. “Ouch!” one student exclaimed when he heard this statement.

Press conferences were held at Hannibal, Palmyra, Knox County and South Shelby high schools in northeast Missouri to help bring awareness to the new texting law. The Northeast Regional Blueprint Committee, along with Director of Highway Safety Leanna DePue, Sgt. Brent Bernhardt with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, school administrators, teachers, local law enforcement and students all participated. Pictures of these events are online at [www.saveMO-lives.com](http://www.saveMO-lives.com).



(Top) Hannibal High School Principal Ryan Sharkey accepts the new “Don’t Text & Drive” sign from Director of Highway Safety Leanna DePue, as Dr. Jill Janes, superintendent, looks on. (Bottom) Knox County High School students, winners of last year’s regional Battle of the Belt competition, paint a new “buckle up” stencil on their school parking lot.

### Around the District

MoDOT employees driving one of the 60 dump trucks in northeast Missouri that have the message “If you can’t see my mirrors, I can’t see you” have observed drivers are staying farther back when following the vehicle. “These stickers were a recommendation from

our District Safety and Health Committee,” explained Safety Officer April Fohey. “One of the reasons we looked into this option is because of our high rate of backing incidents involving the public,” Foley explained. “So far, we have noticed a decrease in these type of incidents,” she added. Foley said this is a pilot program which will be evaluated in April 2010.



Terry Burris and Keith Boling of the Bowling Green maintenance facility, adhere stickers to dump trucks to help reduce backing incidents.



New rest area signs directing patrons to the comment section has increased Northeast District comments by 260 percent!



# D4

## Kansas City Area

### Employee “Truckin’ Along” with Help From Two Not-For-Profit Organizations

by Kerri Lewis

Norman Beeman, traffic specialist in D4, recently received great news. He and his wife Connie won a 1953 Ford Pickup Truck during the 2009 Kansas City Aviation Expo and Airshow. The truck has touched the lives of several youths across the country before landing a new home in Norm’s garage in Parkville, MO.

The truck was built in 2007 during summer camp by the Christian Rodders and Racers Association with the help of teenagers facing difficult life challenges and considered high risk. CRA helps the youth by teaching them skills through hands-on training,



giving them the opportunity to work on this project. The truck was rebuilt from the ground up and slightly modified using a Ford Mustang front end with a Chevy motor and transmission. The motor came out of a 1994 school bus. Other work included installation of power brakes, steering and windows along with air conditioning and tilt steering wheel. It received a “school bus” yellow paint job, new

upholstery, tires and wiring. The job was very educational and thorough. A local businessman, Jerry Barham, owner of Missouri Poster and Banner Co. in North Kansas City, later purchased the truck from CRA. Jerry immediately donated the truck to Mid-America Youth Aviation Association, a not-for-profit group that provides educational aviation and aeronautical opportunities for youngsters. MAYAA’s goal is to bring together youth and aviation professionals so that young people will have the chance to learn about the many careers available in aviation and related fields. MAYAA, headed up by Ed Noyallis, raffled off the truck through ticket sales at \$5 each to provide funding for local scholarships through MAYAA. The tickets were sold over a year period beginning at the 2008 Kansas City Aviation Expo and Airshow. The drawing for the

winner of the 1953 truck was held on the last day of the 2009 Kansas City Aviation Expo and Airshow. Norm and his wife were the lucky winners and took possession of the truck on Aug. 25. “Connie and I went to a bike show last winter on Front St. in Kansas City MO and, at her insistence, I bought \$20 worth of tickets, with no expectation of ever winning. A fellow employee, Sonya Henson was at the airshow and called me at home with the good news. It’s been an unbelievable experience,” said Beeman. “I’ve never known anyone that has won something this significant, let alone me being the winner. The most common question that we’ve been asked is ‘what will we do with it?’ At this time we don’t have a plan in place other than we intend to keep it.”



Norm sits behind the wheel of his new “school bus” yellow 1953 Ford truck.

### A Race for the Cure

More than 28,000 people attended the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Aug. 9 at Union Station. Debbie Huffman, Linda Mallot, Dennis Francis, Leann Francis, Susan Nelson, Mary Miller, Chris Redline,

Daniel Allred, Amy Nash, Glenda Saunders and Lindsay Vogt participated as District 4 MoDOT representatives during this worthwhile event.



for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail

Kristy Hill  
816.622.6327  
kristy.hill@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road  
Lee’s Summit, MO 64086

### kclCON Project Well Under Way

First Bond Bridge Edge Girder Set  
by Jennifer Benefield



Paseo Corridor Constructors set the first roadway edge girder on the new Bond Bridge. This girder is 75 feet long, 17 feet tall, and weighs about 110,000 lbs (55 tons). The girder’s “shark fin” will anchor one of the cable stays. The 133-foot floor beam that sets horizontally on the pylon’s perma-

nent roadway strut was set Aug. 6. It weighs about 66,500 lbs. (33.25 tons). The rust-colored tubing is temporary falsework. This falsework will support the edge girders as they extend northward. The river bridge’s roadway structure is now beginning to emerge!



# D5

## Central

### Resurfacing Project Adds Bike/ Ped Benefits for Columbia

by Holly Dentner

MoDOT and Columbia area officials recently celebrated the completion of a project designed to benefit not only motorized transportation, but also those who “getabout” Columbia by foot or on a bicycle.

The improvements were made to Stadium Boulevard (Route 740) in Columbia to improve safety and traffic flow. The new highway provides a smoother, safer driving surface for the thousands of vehicles that travel it every day.

MoDOT also worked with the city’s bike and pedestrian planners at Getabout Columbia to include improvements targeted toward every mode of transportation.

Work included a complete resurfacing of 5.3 miles of Stadium Blvd. from U.S. Route 63 to Broadway. When the route was re-striped, a new turn lane was added from westbound Stadium into the MKT Trailhead and at West Broadway. Turn lanes at the Stadium and Providence intersection were lengthened to allow for better traffic flow.

Bicycle lanes were striped along Stadium Blvd. where there was room to do so. Pedestrian improvements were made at three intersections to bring them up to current American With Disabilities Act standards.



Holly Dentner

Typical traffic volumes on Stadium Boulevard range from 20,000 to 37,000 vehicles per day.

The Stadium Blvd. improvement project cost \$1.7 million and was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The project coincided with work on Providence Road, just south of Stadium. MoDOT worked with the city and the University of Missouri to widen Providence to add a turn lane and median barrier to increase safety. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Sept. 18 to celebrate the improvements.



Holly Dentner

A cyclist and pedestrian cross at the busy intersection of Stadium and Providence, near the University of Missouri campus.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager Kristin Gerber  
Phone 573.522.3375  
E-mail kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov  
  
1511 Missouri Boulevard  
P.O. Box 718  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

### District Works Behind the Scenes at Tour of Missouri

The Tour of Missouri raced through the Central District on Sept. 10 and 11 this year, finishing Stage 4 of the professional cycling event in Jefferson City and Stage 5 in Sedalia. For the third year in a row, Central District MoDOT employees worked behind the scenes to make sure the event went smoothly.

MoDOT began work on the race in January, working with race officials to determine the routes. Communication efforts started several weeks before the event to inform the public on how Tour of Missouri road closures might affect their travel plans.

Several days prior to the race, maintenance crews picked up debris and placed “Expect Delays” signs on race routes to give motorists advanced notice of the road closures.

During the mid-Missouri portion of the race, district maintenance employees were posted along the routes to assist with signs, debris clean-up or any other roadway concerns. The customer service center remained open after hours to keep track of the riders’ progress and take calls regarding road closures.

“During both central Missouri stages, maintenance crews were posted along the routes, ready to respond if needed,” said Traffic Operations Engineer Jacob Ray. “Fortunately, everything went smoothly as the riders made their way across the state.”

Since the Stage 5 race in Sedalia was an individual time trial, district employees had to prepare for road closures that lasted several hours. Cyclists use a closed circuit for a time trial, with cyclists starting one at a time at intervals a few minutes apart.

Eleven district employees also worked at the health and wellness expos in Jefferson City and Sedalia. Bicycle fans at both locations got the chance to learn more about what MoDOT does for pedestrian and bicycle travel, as well as learning about roadway safety.



Holly Dentner

Office Assistant Edith Walton talks to kids about bicycle safety at the Sedalia Expo on Sept. 11.

### Around the District



Kristin Gerber

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn joined the City of Columbia at a Sept. 4 news conference to encourage motorists to “Respect the Red.” The city installed red light cameras at the intersection of Providence (Route 163) and Broadway and at Stadium (Route 740) and Worley. During the 30-day “warning period,” 225 motorists were issued warning citations for running red lights at the two intersections. Rahn applauded Columbia for becoming the 18th Missouri city to implement red-light cameras, which decrease the number of violaters, crashes, and disabling crashes.



Kristin Gerber

Transportation Project Manager Jason Vanderfelt talks with a citizen during a Sept. 1 public hearing in Fulton. The hearing was held for the proposed construction of Fulton’s first roundabout, at the intersection of Bus. Route 54 and Second Street.



D6

St. Louis Area

# A Message from Voice of D6

by Michael Earls



Voice of D6 (District 6 Employee Advisory Extension Council)

A year ago, during fall meetings, it was announced that District 6 was in the process of forming a district extension of the statewide Employees Advisory Council. Thanks to the generous response from District 6 employees, plenty of people stepped up in order to form a diverse group representing all areas of MoDOT.

To distinguish the team from the statewide EAC, we have chosen to call ourselves the Voice of D6. Our mission is to foster and enhance an enjoyable work environment for District 6 employees, by assisting management and employees with understanding and embracing cultural diversity, reviewing standard practices and improving communications.

We hope to provide a forum where district employees can voice concerns and/or suggestions, feeling satisfied that they are both heard and receive a response in a timely manner. We open a dialogue with the appropriate areas of MoDOT who can best make an informed response and have the authority to make any needed adjustments to a specific situation. This is done confidentially, leaving names out of any discussions with parties outside of the team.

In the brief history of the team, we have already researched 10 employee concerns and initiated the Ride For Remembrance challenge to the rest of the state to raise money for the Fallen Workers' Memorial. During monthly meetings, we also showcase

guest speakers from various areas of MoDOT to better inform our members, who can then spread the word to each of our work areas.

For more information, go to the District 6 intranet homepage. Click on the Voice Of D6 link to:

- View the team members.
- Click on the name under any team member's picture for that person's phone number and an e-mail address. This way, a question, comment or concern may be sent to an individual member.
- Read meeting highlights, linked through archived meeting minutes.
- Open an EAEC Concern Form, which can be submitted in one of the following ways:
  - Fill out and submit it to the current team leader.
  - Fill out, save to your local drive and attach it to an e-mail to any team member
  - Print out and send it through the mail.
  - Pick up a copy and fill out a form available in the WorkLife Center, or in the many break rooms throughout the district.
- Read through previously discussed employee concerns.
- View an FAQs section.
- Open the statewide EAC link
- Read the team's bylaws.
- View the team's brochure, which is also available in break rooms and the WorkLife Center.

Thanks for caring enough to voice your concerns. Together we can make a better, safer work environment.

## for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
Email

Marie Elliott  
314.340.4524  
yvonne.elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

# Special Thanks to Employees Helping Make Tour of Missouri a Success

by Kara Price with contributions by Larry Doelling and Michelle Voegele

The world's greatest bicyclist professionals sped through the St. Louis region for the third Tour of Missouri professional cycling race on Labor Day, Sept. 7. MoDOT worked effectively to make sure roads were safe for cyclists, motorists and spectators. The St. Louis City area team's hard work and dedicated efforts contributed to a great kickoff during Stage 1 of the competitive bike race.

A special thanks goes to the Broadway and Shreve maintenance buildings, and MoDOT's St. Louis City area traffic team for the effort it took to get downtown St. Louis prepared for the Tour of Missouri.

"It took teamwork to thoroughly prepare the routes and then to keep it looking good for the Tour of Missouri," said Larry Doelling, MoDOT maintenance superintendent for St. Louis City.

"I am impressed with the dedicated efforts from the Broadway and Shreve maintenance crews, and how everyone really stepped up to get this area ready for the bike race," added Doelling.

MoDOT hosted a fan zone informational booth at the Health and Wellness Expo Center at Kiener Plaza during the circuit race. A special thanks goes to employees who volunteered at the booth to promote safe driving and cycling practices.



Tour of Missouri cyclists race past the Broadway maintenance building.

"It took a coordinated team effort between MoDOT, St. Louis City Police Department and other partners to make this year's race a success," said Michelle Voegele, MoDOT traffic engineer for St. Louis City area team.

Maintenance crews temporarily closed various interstate ramps in downtown St. Louis for the circuit race. Crews maintained the ramp closures throughout the day to ensure safety during the race. MoDOT also provided motorists with detailed information in advance about the routes that were affected by Tour of Missouri.

Volunteers provided fellow bike fans with facts on MoDOT's many travel information tools while answering questions regarding the roads.

"I sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedicated efforts by the maintenance buildings, traffic team and fan zone volunteers in making the City of St. Louis shine during this important event," added Voegele.

For more information on the Tour of Missouri race, visit [www.modot.org/tourofmissouri](http://www.modot.org/tourofmissouri).



The northbound Interstate 55 off-ramp at Arsenal was one of the ramps temporarily closed during the Tour of Missouri circuit race.



# D7

## Southwest

### Bates County Resurfacing Includes First-in-Nation Asphalt Mixture

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis / photos by Michael Middleton

A Bates County resurfacing project that uses Thiopave, a new paving technology mixing sulphur with asphalt, marks the first large-production job to be completed in the United States.

Ideker, Inc., was approached by Shell Oil Company about using their sulphur product in the asphalt mixture on the southbound lanes of Route 71 from Butler to Rich Hill. Ideker proposed to use Thiopave at no additional cost to MoDOT, and the end result would meet state specifications.

District Construction and Materials Engineer Michael Middleton spent a day on the project and said the sulphur smell really wasn't that bad.

"Some of Ideker's employees were wearing face masks or respirators due to the smell and irritating steam coming off the mixture," Middleton said. "If it's hot outside or there's a slight breeze when the asphalt is being laid, the smell can be irri-



This equipment injects sulphur pieces into the mixture.

tating to the eyes and throat."

Middleton said air quality tests were taken, and results show no different levels of hazards than from "usual" asphalt mixes.

According to Shell, "Replacing a proportion of the bitumen in the asphalt mix with Shell Thiopave increases overall mix strength and results in improved loadbearing capacity of the finished road."

Thiopave is only successful when using "warm" mix technology. Shell used a South African wax in the mixture that sets the asphalt at 265-275 degrees Fahrenheit instead of the usual 320-340 degrees Fahrenheit.

Studies show a 60 percent reduction in volatile organic compounds with the



Sulphur before it is mixed into the asphalt.

sulphur warm mix compared to conventional mixtures, and the warm mix asphalt is recyclable.



The sulphur stockpile at the asphalt plant.

### Ribbon Cut in Bearcreek

by Lori Marble



Randy Hobart

Several Bearcreek community members, State Rep. Mike

Parsons, Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz and State Sen. Delbert Scott cut the ceremonial ribbon during a recent dedication ceremony on Route 32 in Cedar County. Rep. Parsons, a longtime supporter of the project, coined the phrase "Bearcreek or Bust" and helped spark a rebirth of interest in that section of Missouri roadway.

The Route 32 corridor east of Stockton

was reviewed in a 1967 report. An important corridor between Stockton and Bolivar, as well as recreational access to Stockton Lake, the project had four sharp horizontal curves that were posted at 25 mph. The original alignments, presented at public hearings in 1974, were shelved after public opposition.

In 1986 the bridges to the east over Moore's Branch and Bearcreek were replaced and the road was widened. In 2000, MoDOT acquired right of way along Route 32 to move forward with the project. The decades-old plans were re-evaluated using practical design, which led to a redesign made possible by the affordable cost.

### Commission Treated to District 7 Hospitality

by Lori Marble



Lori Marble

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn and Assistant Public Works Director Jack Schaller share a laugh before joining the trolley tour.

Members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission were treated to a trolley tour of Joplin and a reception on the deck of the Joplin Regional Airport when they visited the Southwest District for the monthly meeting Sept. 2.

Representatives from the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce and the city

gave a guided tour of Joplin. Highlights included a review of Interstate-44 interchanges and a cost-share project at 32nd and Main streets.

Commission members, senior management team members and area leaders were treated to a reception at the airport followed by a Greek-themed dinner at the conclusion of the trolley tour.

#### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail  
3901 E. 32nd Street  
Joplin, MO 64804

Lori Marble  
417.629.3300  
lori.marble@modot.mo.gov



D8

Springfield Area

Safety, Precision Emphasized  
In Snowplow, Loader Training

by Bob Edwards

Safe and precise operation of equipment are the keys to plowing snow. Those skills were practiced and assessed in District 8’s “snow academy” in early September – well before anyone has to worry about snowflakes falling onto pavement.

The 321 district employees who must plow snow went through a half-day of training at the District Office complex. Workers from two to five maintenance shops and other work groups were scheduled for morning or afternoon sessions over seven days.

“It’s a refresher,” Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler said “It helps a driver be safer and do a more effective job.”

Plowing snow is a difficult task for employees, Seiler said, “and they make it look easy.” It’s not a bad idea to think, rehearse and refresh a little on the pro-

cedures, he said.

Each participant ran two courses – one in a snowplow-equipped dump truck and another in a loader – to simulate plowing snow and loading salt. Each went through a pre-trip inspection on a truck and a loader and had a classroom session to review operation of the computerized salt spreaders and vehicle preventive maintenance. A written test was included.

“Everything went exceptionally well,” said District Maintenance Engineer Dave O’Connor. Average scores were up six percent over 2008.

In a note to employees who went through the training, O’Connor said, “Once again you’ve demonstrated your commitment to your job and the pride you take in doing a job well.”



D8 at Work

Branson Senior Construction Inspector Terry Morgan tests a concrete sample (top photo) during paving on Route 14 at Route 65 in Ozark as part of the interchange reconstruction project.

Going over plans with contractor workers during a bridge demolition at the I-44/Glenstone Avenue interchange reconstruction project (bottom photo) is Springfield Senior Construction Inspector Howard Henderson, right.



1



2



3



6



5



4

13

*“Talkin’ Transportation”  
Call-In Radio Show*

**KWTO 560 AM, Springfield**

**10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays**

[radiospringfield.com](http://radiospringfield.com)

**for more info**

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail

3025 E. Kearney  
P.O. Box 868  
Springfield, MO 65801

Bob Edwards  
417.895.7713  
[robert.edwards@modot.mo.gov](mailto:robert.edwards@modot.mo.gov)

Snowplow/Loader Training Scenes

1. Roadside Manager David Cissell judges the loader course.

2. Drury Senior Maintenance Worker Jimmy Simpson, left, checks his snowplow course results with Office Maintenance Superintendent Dan Ream.
3. Humansville Maintenance Worker Mike Swearingin drives the snowplow course.

4. Branson Maintenance Crew Leader Tim Smith, left, inspects a loader with Equipment Specialist Larry Jeffreys as judge.

5. Taking a written test are Manes Senior Maintenance Worker Ron Jones, left, and Ava Senior Maintenance Worker Casey Johnson.

6. Buffalo Senior Maintenance Worker Martin Hosiner runs the loader course.



# D9

South Central

## District 9 Crews Ensure Smooth Ride for Tour of Missouri



South Central crews provided assistance with traffic management, roadway conditions, and travel safety information for the Tour of Missouri this year. Crews were rewarded by announcer comments that the roads looked great for Stage 3 of the race, from Farmington to Rolla.

## District 9 Crews Coordinate for a Swift Resolution

Citizens of Van Buren expressed concerns about the lack of a left turn option at the truck stop near Route D. They indicated that drivers were often confused at that location, and would occasionally drive the wrong direction on Route 60.

In response to those safety concerns, District 9 crews worked day and night to provide a left-turn option at that location. Crews from Van Buren,

Ellsinore, South Weekend Crew and Bridge Maintenance, coordinated with the Van Buren Construction Office and crews from Roadside to complete the project in just two weeks.

Maintenance Superintendent Mark Simpson said he was pleased with the project. “There were no traffic issues and everyone really came together to make this happen quickly,” said Simpson.



### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail  
  
910 Old Springfield Road  
P.O. Box 220  
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Christi Turkleson  
417.469.6203  
christina.turkleson@modot.mo.gov

## Route 32 Project Receives Customer Praise

Construction was recently completed on a realignment project on Route 32 in Dent County. Work included realignment of 1.3 miles of roadway, which eliminated one of the six existing curves, and reduced the curve from 15 degrees or greater to six degrees. Grading, drainage, the addition of two-foot paved shoulders, and resurfacing of Route 32 was also included.

Customer Teri Rowan was so appreciative of the realignment, she wrote

a thank-you note to District 9 and posted a thank-you sign on Route 32 in Dent County. Ms. Rowan stated in her letter that she was pleased to “be able to lose that terrible curve ... as these curves have been such a distraction and a headache ... I believe you have saved lives in the future.”

Construction was completed by H.R. Quadri Contractors, LLC of Van Buren, Mo. and began on June 1.



## Buckle Buddy Program Targets Young Students

Kindergarten, first- and second-grade students in District 9 participated in a new safety education program this September. Students of Success Elementary School were the first to experience Buckle Buddy! The Buckle Buddy character is a dragon featured in each element of the curriculum promoting proper seatbelt and booster seat use.

The Buckle Buddy educational program was developed to assist children in developing safe passenger restraint habits at an early age, and was designed to be educational, interactive and fun. The program uses several interactive tools to help children learn and retain road safety messages.

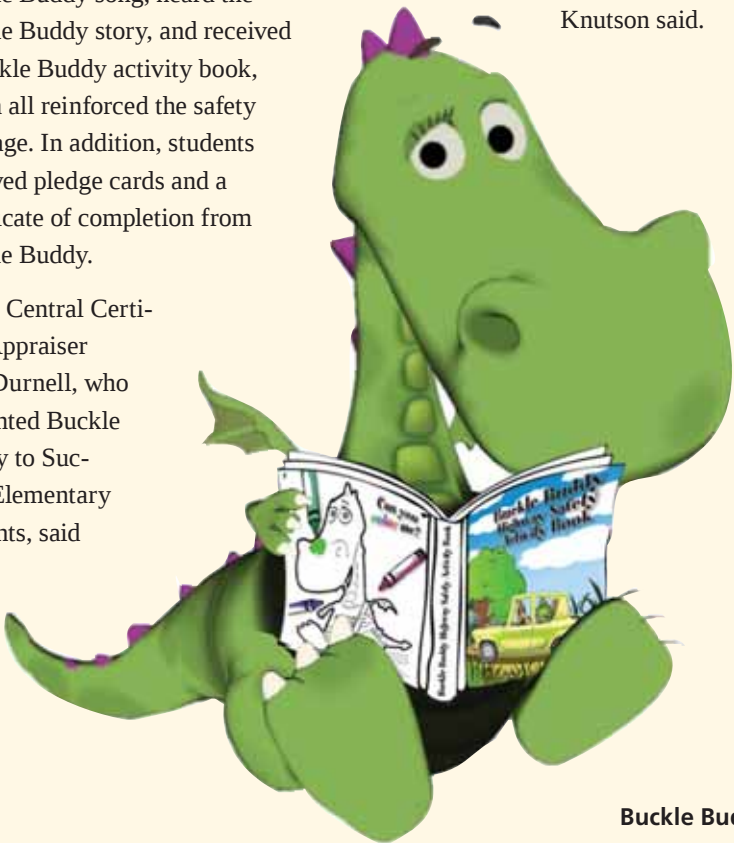
Participating students learned the Buckle Buddy song, heard the Buckle Buddy story, and received a Buckle Buddy activity book, which all reinforced the safety message. In addition, students received pledge cards and a certificate of completion from Buckle Buddy.

South Central Certified Appraiser Lisa Durnell, who presented Buckle Buddy to Success Elementary students, said

the curriculum was well received. “All of the communications materials were very well received and the kids loved everything about it,” she said, “The teachers and coordinator loved it too!”

South Central Regional Coalition Coordinator Kelly Martin also said the program was a success. “We received excellent feedback from the school. The school coordinator said the kids were still excited and had retained the safety information when they were quizzed 2 days later,” said Martin School Coordinator for Success Elementary, Marilyn Knutson, indicated that the children had shared their knowledge at home. “They say they

have already reminded parents about buckling up,” Knutson said.



Buckle Buddy



# D10

## Southeast

### Establishment Creek Ribbon Cutting Special Guests Honored

Nearly 90 people attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 14 to commemorate completion of the Establishment Creek Bridge in Ste. Genevieve County near Bloomsdale.

Guest speakers included: Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond; Kathy Waltz on behalf of U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan; State Rep. Joe Fallert, District 104; and MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton.

Other special guests included area Fire Chief John Pfaff, Mr. Mark Zadjura and Ms. Betty Carver and her family.

“We’d like to thank Chief Pfaff for partnering with MoDOT to ensure that area residents remained safe while the

bridge was under construction,” said Shelton. “We’d also like to thank Mr. Zadjura, who has been delivering meals for ‘Meals on Wheels’ and had his original route significantly lengthened during the construction of the new bridge. He made sure those on the ‘dead-end side’ of the bridge on Route V still got their meals, and he never complained. To both of these special guests, on behalf of MoDOT, I would like to thank you.”

Another special guest recognized was Ms. Carver and her family.



(above) Ceremony speakers and other special guests, stand by as Ms. Betty Carver cuts the ceremonial ribbon.

Ms. Betty Carver and her family (left) were honored at the Establishment Creek Ribboncutting ceremony. Ms. Carver cut the ribbon to the original bridge in 1930.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded the contract during its regular meeting in February. The \$1,118,236 contract was awarded to Goodwin Bros. Construction, Co., Crystal City, Mo. Work began in March and was completed in August.

### Around the Southeast District



D10 employees (left) recently worked at the Missouri State Fair: Facility Operations Supervisor Dave Fleming; Senior Design Technician Sheryl Wunderlich; Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks; Intermediate Design Technician Ricky Crabb, Senior Design Technician Rachel Blalock, HR Manager Steve Hermann; and District Information Systems Manager Bob Dodd.

The Southeast District held a blood drive in Sikeston. Hayti Maintenance Crew Leader Henry Berry (right) was one of the donors.



A ribbon cutting was held for one of District 10’s first completed Recovery Act projects on Route K in Cape County. Special guests included (l-r in photo at left) District Engineer Mark Shelton, Cape Girardeau Mayor Jay Knudtson, President of Delta Companies Ric Neubert, Tracey Glenn with the Cape Chamber; and Cape City Manager Scott Meyer.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager Nicole Thieret  
Phone 573.472.6632  
E-mail nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov  
  
2675 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 160  
Sikeston, MO 63801

### District 10 Teams Up to Help Educate Area Youth

MoDOT employees continuously strive to educate the public on safety aspects and on MoDOT’s practices. While the education component is normally a duty associated more closely with some jobs than others, employees from many different departments in District 10 have become actively involved in various educational efforts.

MoDOT employees from traffic, human resources, engineering and maintenance have recently offered their resources and expertise during special educational events throughout the district. Through this teamwork, D10 was able to visit several area schools, reaching students from preschool to high school.



Senior Traffic Studies Specialists Tom Sanders and Derek Fichtel speak to the Malden High School’s Drivers’ Education class in June.



Cape County students attend “Transportation Days” at the Crisp Museum’s Summer Academy, located on SEMO’s River Campus; MoDOT was one of the presenters.



During the Madison County Summer Safety Fair, Community Relations and Customer Service Representative Alberta Green speaks with students about buckling up and other safety issues.



Traffic Operations Engineer Steve Hoernig answers students’ questions during a special “Safety Day” at the Park Hills Elementary School.



Regional Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fellows allows kids to explore MoDOT equipment during the Annual Osage Center Park and Rec Day; an educational booth was also set up indoors.



# Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

**Community Relations**  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573.751.2840  
[www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)  
1-888 ASK MODOT

**Editor**  
Laura Holloway

**Design Coordinator**  
Dennis Forbis

## Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Laura Holloway, editor  
573.751.5985  
[Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov)

Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



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Missouri Department of Transportation  
Community Relations  
105 W. Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PreSort  
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# Interactive Training for Office 2007 at Your Fingertips

by Charles Hiebert

This month, the launch of Windows 7 and Office 2007 begins. By now, most employees have been introduced to the new products, either through training, the intranet Web site or the home-use program.

But there's one more feature to help make the transition as smooth as possible. Once you have Office 2007 loaded on your computer, you'll notice a link

under the "All Programs" area called Microsoft Office Interactive Training.

This feature is an interactive comparison between Office 2003 and Office 2007. Office 2003 products have an almost identical interface to MoDOT's current software. Once loaded, you can visit a display that replicates the old Office 2003 interface. Simply go to the action you want to perform and the

program will then show you where to find the same feature in Office 2007.

"It's a very handy quick reference," explained Ed Martin, Information Systems project manager. "And it's right at your fingertips."

Microsoft Office Interactive Training is yet another way to learn the changes to these fundamental programs. For more information and online training



opportunities, visit the Next Generation Desktop intranet page at [www.i](http://www.i).

If you need assistance, or the interactive training doesn't have the answer you're after, contact an NGD Red Shirt Team member in your area. They'll be able to help.

# Tennessee Knows There's Snow Place Like Missouri

## Nearby states exchange winter operation best practices

by Reeve White

After a heavy snowfall hit Memphis, Tenn., last February, the Tennessee Department of Transportation contacted MoDOT to learn more about our winter operation guidelines and equipment. The two DOTs met Aug. 18-19 in Sikeston to discuss best practices.

"It was an opportunity to be a good neighbor and help another state," said Mike Shea, MoDOT Central Office maintenance liaison engineer.

The first day was spent discussing guidelines and training procedures. MoDOT Central Office maintenance and District 10 staff strategized winter operation decision-making with 25 TDOT employees. Dan Sherbo, District 9 maintenance supervisor, presented on the use of beet juice in winter operations.

The second day featured a tour of the new Malden maintenance facility. TDOT staff examined MoDOT's facilities and equipment including a salt storage structure, a salt brine maker, a tow plow and a snowplow truck with a 14-foot plow.

Tennessee uses 8- and 10-foot snowplows in some parts of their state and

is considering upgrades. Because Tennessee does not get the same weather as Missouri, it's not practical for them to have the same level of snow-fighting ability but some upgrades were needed for storms, such as the one that swept through Memphis last winter.

"We don't experience the same winter weather, so they have to take everything with a grain of salt," said Mike

Shea, central office maintenance liaison engineer. "They have to weigh investment based on the benefits they will receive."

MoDOT also had the opportunity to share information on our Emergency Operations Center, which has changed over the past few years. MoDOT Central Office and all districts now communicate throughout the storm to keep

up with any weather developments.

"We're working the storm rather than having the storm work us," Shea said.

The next step is getting other states involved in our EOC operation. During the peer exchange, MoDOT invited Tennessee to join the EOC. By working with states like Kansas and Oklahoma, Missouri is able to track the storms before they hit the state. Adding Tennessee allows their state to be prepared as winter storms head east.

TDOT's Director of Maintenance Greg Duncan thanked MoDOT for the peer exchange.

"Your team really did a great job of opening up their operation to us," said Duncan. "I'm glad our guys heard the emergency operations discussion, and the discussion on the importance of plowing rather than burning the snow and ice away with salt."



MoDOT demonstrated how the above dump truck fitted with a 26-foot right-handed tow plow operates during winter operations.